

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the most special and Holy Week of the year. It is the week in which we contemplate the extremes of our own lives. We would normally collect a blessed palm leaf from Mass on Sunday and if it is not already folded into a cross, we might fold it into a cross ourselves. Either way, it reminds us of the people of Jesus' time who one day greeted Jesus with wild enthusiastic excitement and joy, shouting, "Hosanna, Hosanna, Welcome to the Son of David, the promised one who comes to save us." Only days later they were screaming, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

Would we be capable of such two-faced behaviour? Do we find ourselves acting in such wildly different responses to Jesus? At times, do we present ourselves as good disciples and at other times have no time for him and shut him out?

Perhaps we are not so dramatic, but this week is a week to reflect on who we believe Jesus is, and what place does he have in our lives?

To help us, the Church presents us with very important and moving liturgies. This year those liturgies are going to lack something, but we can still take part in them. You are personally invited to join our bishop as he leads the Sacred Triduum (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) from the cathedral via the diocesan web site www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

You are also invited to join with the parish by joining those services at Sacred Heart at the following times:

Maundy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.00.pm	Fr. Peter
Good Friday	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	3.00.pm	Fr. Gerard
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil (shortened form)	7.00.pm	Fr. Peter
Easter Sunday	Mass of Easter Day	9.30.am	Fr. Gerard

In addition, I really encourage you to meditate of the events of this week. You can make the Stations of the Cross at home. You can do this using a prayer book or using your own words. You might want to set an hour apart and make the Stations of the Cross with Fr. Denis McBride CSsR by clicking on this link. <https://youtu.be/sr-EjzDPzvQ> you will not be disappointed by the insights you will gain into these familiar devotions.